

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 25

August 29, 1942

ARKANSAS (August 1). -- Special attention being given to reaching war production goals. Enrollment in Food-for-Victory program now 135,692 families, including 42,977 negro families. With 20,840 entries, Arkansas won first place in 4-State Plant-to-Prospere and Live-at-Home competitions sponsored by a Memphis newspaper. Problems facing farmers in Food-for-Victory program are labor and feed shortage, lack of assured supply of winter legume seed, possible shortage of hatching eggs, and unfavorable weather.

Organization of Minutemen strengthened on county basis. Minutemen devoting principal efforts to sale of war bonds, salvage of scrap and fats, and Victory Gardens. To overcome transportation difficulties, 635 local leader training meetings held in July for 5,981 local leaders including 3,909 negroes.

Working in all counties on fruit and vegetable storage, particularly construction of home-made storm and storage cellars. Emphasis on keeping supply of canned goods and root crops. Fall and winter gardens encouraged, drought damaged summer gardens.

Agents attended 145 civilian defense council meetings; discussed Food-for-Victory, fats salvage, first aid, school lunches, fire control, Red Cross, housing, war bonds. Agents attended 121 county war board meetings, bringing attention to boll-weevil infestation and shortages of poison supplies, fertilizer, baling wire; taking special interest in such board activities as issuance of farm construction permits, establishment of transient labor camps, sugar rationing.

Extension sponsored State-wide campaign for consumption of abundant peach crop and use for winter pantry stores. Newspapers and radio used. Leaflet distributed to consumers through retail stores brought biggest demand for peaches for canning in many years. Assistance also given to individuals and groups in marketing poultry, butter, cream, potatoes, small fruits, tomatoes, vegetables, watermelons, lambs, swine, oats.

Free cotton classing service given 136 groups representing one-third of State's cotton acreage, to take advantage of higher prices for quality cotton.

4-H Clubs using profits from Victory pigs, calves, and gardens to buy war bonds and stamps. Active in rubber, fats, and other salvage; studying egg grading; assisting in peach-consumption campaign; presenting team demonstrations and patriotic programs; renovating clothing; helping in care and repair of farm and home machinery and equipment. In Faulkner County, 4-H members constructed home-made peanut picker, demonstrated its use to adult farmers.

Much attention given to peanut-picking equipment. Farmers urged to construct own pickers. Agents cooperating with teachers in making of pickers in vocational agriculture shops.

Home demonstration agents engaged in conducting cooking schools and Red Cross and nutrition courses, establishing information and nutrition centers, furthering hot-school-lunch programs, attending nutrition committee meetings to present information on consumers' interests, price ceilings, food preservation, canteen equipment, and peach campaign.

Continuing support given to care and repair of farm machinery for production, conservation, and safety, and to collection of critical materials.

180 stories prepared on Food for Victory for newspapers and 80 for radio stations. Publications issued on Stop Forest Fires in Arkansas, Home-made Storm and Storage Cellar, Save Inedible Fats for War Needs, and Use Arkansas Peaches.

Annual poultry school at university qualified 33 persons as official flock selection and pullorum testing agents.

ILLINOIS (August 1). -- Organization to carry out wartime educational program for agriculture set up in every county. Informal committee of farm and home advisers and farm and home bureau presidents, selects personnel of county committee, which is made up of representatives of farm men and women, of each agricultural agency in county, and of vocational agriculture and home economics. Farm adviser is chairman and home adviser cochairman. County committee selects chairman (man) and cochairman (woman) for each township, and adapts and administers State program in county. Township chairmen and cochairmen select leader and coleader for each school district and see that program is carried out. School district leaders act as local extension representatives and reach all farm families in their districts.

Training schools for school district leaders, covering 2 to 4 townships, held in every county to consider methods of presentation. District supervisors assisted at first training school in each county. Recommended method of reaching farm families is through discussion group meetings called by school district leaders. Major topics are discussed and pamphlets distributed. Those attending asked to take copies of pamphlets to neighbors not at meeting. Sometimes school district leaders choose to visit each family at home and give out pamphlets. Occasionally, where harvest interferes with local meetings, general meeting is held for entire township.

Four major topics of educational program in State are inflation control, soybean storage, fire prevention, and food preservation. Wartime aspects of each emphasized at all times.

Educational effort in inflation control centers on general problem of trend toward inflation in wartime, preventive measures already taken, and how individual farmer can help. Result is better understanding of inflation problem by leaders and farmers. Similar program needed for industrial wage earners.



Work on grain storage problem deals mostly with soybeans. Wartime aspects emphasized are expected shortage of rail and truck transportation, need for survey of farm storage facilities, and getting repair and new construction orders in early.

In fire control, stress laid on extra cost of fires in wartime, due to difficulty of replacing essential materials destroyed. This topic well adapted to discussion teaching methods and of more general interest than any other because farmers have had experience with fires and problem is one the individual farmer can do something about.

Discussions on wartime food preservation, particularly fruit and vegetable canning, are of special interest to farm women. Problem found in sugar rationing because of different interpretations of regulations by different rationing boards.

News releases from extension editor's office supplement each step in organizing and carrying out wartime educational program. Cover selection of personnel at county, township, and school district levels, county and school district meetings, and leader-training schools. Local press giving fine support; especially helpful for school district meetings. In 25 counties all such meetings held on same night.

Radio used to good advantage in publicizing program and building up local meetings. In 3 counties where all school district meetings were held on same night, station WHBF donated half hour for special broadcast. All meetings tuned in on program, heard statement by dean of agricultural college; dialogue discussion of fire prevention, inflation control, and food preservation; and summary of transportation problem, particularly concerning local livestock. Broadcast helped to overcome difficulties of inexperienced leaders in calling meetings to order and starting discussion, and served to stimulate discussion by raising questions in minds of those attending. Survey afterwards showed broadcast did not materially lessen attendance at meeting.

MARYLAND (August 24). -- Major effort centering on getting information to neighborhood leaders in form that can be passed on to farm families. Leaflet given leaders on Have a Fall Victory Garden, telling crops that can be planted late and how to grow them. Other leaflets distributed to leaders only or in quantities for passing on to families are: What Wartime Price Control Means to You, Victory Begins at Home, Stop That Fire, Fire Hazard Check List, Store Food for the Family, Provide Your Own Meat Supply, Tips on Saving Fuel.

Organization for rural fire prevention and control completed in State and workers being trained. Effort made to have each farm family check its fire hazards and fire-fighting equipment and post check list as reminder.

Program begun to help farmers keep up yields of needed crops under restrictions on use of commercial nitrogen. Situation most acute in large truck and canning crops industry. Basis of program will be new publication, Accumulating Soil Nitrogen by Use of Manures and Cover Crops.

In counties where tomatoes and other crops are canned in large volume, agents giving much help in labor shortage, both for harvesting and for packing plants. Arranged with war board's farm labor committee for counties to share expense of importing transient workers.

Campaign conducted among fruit growers for special care to prevent loss in harvesting, because of more inexperienced labor.

NEW YORK (August 1). -- Using research as foundation for extension programs more than ever before. Accumulated data on milk-production costs and returns used in price administration for Federal-State milk marketing order. Data on milk delivery costs used to persuade dealers to adopt alternate-day deliveries and other mileage-saving devices to conserve rubber. Quick micro-chemical method devised to test quantity and quality of rubber in plants; native and other plants being investigated as sources. Progress made in finding substitutes for certain fungicides and insecticides scarce because of war; included is substitute for formaldehyde in control of onion smut. Method found to estimate fertilizer needs of orchards by analyzing chemical composition of apple leaves in midsummer. New organic spray discovered to kill enough fruit-tree blossoms to reduce cost of thinning later; also induces annual bearing of ordinarily biennial varieties. Riboflavin content proved to be chief value of dried milk as poultry feed; other riboflavin sources can be substituted with no adverse effects.

Tremendous interest in canning. Demonstrations given in 56 counties. Part-time workers employed by State war council assist home demonstration agents and 4-H Clubs with food conservation programs; held, 1,100 canning meetings in State. Canning schools attended by more than 45,000. Water-bath and steam-pressure methods demonstrated. Fruits canned without sugar or with only 1/2 cup to each quart. Home-made dryer exhibited. Instructions given on drying, salting, pickling, and on packing foods for freezer locker storage.

Urban home demonstration agent at Elmira worked with 5 groups of women on preparing lunches for industrial workers, choosing foods to supplement morning and evening meals for balanced diet. Bulletin, Industrial Lunches, issued.

Working on techniques of preparing and serving emergency meals, mass feeding, and use of mobile kitchen. At Cortland County Fair, women who have had Red Cross canteen course will demonstrate use of inexpensively constructed mobile kitchen by serving 11 meals to 4-H exhibitors. Mass feeding program for State being planned cooperatively with Red Cross and State war council.

Specialist employed in selection and care of household equipment. Illustrative and teaching aids prepared in use and care of wood and coal ranges, kerosene stoves, electric refrigerators, and safe methods with pressure cookers. Held 7 household mechanic clinics to train homemakers in caring for and sharpening knives and scissors, repairing electric light and appliance cords, reading meters and replacing fuses, and types of household wiring.

4-H Clubs active in fire prevention, first aid, nursing, Red Cross, war bond buying, salvaging metal and paper, other war work. Typical record in



Niagara County, where 4-H Clubs furnish 11 air-raid wardens, 6 fire fighters, 4 emergency police, 4 special messengers, 22 farm machinery repairmen, 11 Minutemen, 12 members of civilian war councils, 12 blood donors, 40 war-industry workers, 96 operators of farms for food production, 11 members of armed services.

Serious shortage of physicians threatens some areas; one-third of profession expected to be in armed forces by year's end. Some hospitals greatly understaffed.

Some urban extension agents overwhelmed with requests for instruction in food preservation and in mending. Cooperating with marketing agencies in moving perishable fruits and vegetables.

Cooperative fuel-wood program launched under extension leadership. Survey of sources being made by 17,000 Minutemen. At owners' request foresters will mark trees for cutting. Possible emergency yield from State's farm woodlands estimated at 10 million standard cords without harm to future growth.

Revision of extension methods being studied. Transportation difficulties emphasize need for more effective use of print and radio as substitutes for direct contact.

SOUTH DAKOTA (August 1). -- Neighborhood leader system completed in all counties that have agents; about 6,000 leaders for 3,000 neighborhoods. Organization is direct responsibility of agent in each county but co-operates closely with county war board. Director discusses State-wide projects with State war board. County agents follow same procedure on county projects with county war board. System results in excellent co-operation with all Department agencies, particularly in rural fire control work. OCD and OFA submit samples of educational material to Director before it is passed on to all neighborhood leaders through county agent offices.

Many counties send news letters to neighborhood leaders from time to time, containing information on agricultural war effort. Other counties being asked to follow this practice. State office hopes to limit neighborhood leaders to educational programs. County extension workers surprised and gratified at willingness of leaders to assume responsibilities.

Enough printed fire-control check sheets supplied counties for each farm family. Organization and subject-matter manual given to each neighborhood leader. Counties in range area doing excellent work in organizing communities to fight prairie fires, using meetings, publicity, circular letters. More fire guards plowed and more combine outfits carrying plow into fields than in any other year.

Transportation surveys being conducted in 45 counties by experiment station, cooperating with county agents and war boards. Schedules of transportation facilities obtained from all farm families in selected school districts in about 25 counties. Neighborhood leaders assisting in some counties. Information obtained from oil companies, creameries, and produce houses. Truckers being checked at livestock sales rings, packing plants, stockyards, grain elevators.

Great prevalence of grain diseases such as crown rust and scab makes resistant varieties extremely important this year. Agents in about 50 counties have held meetings in connection with small-grain variety demonstration plots. Much interest shown by farmers.

Printed leaflet published on preparation and preservation of fruits and vegetables for freezer lockers; demand enormous. Locker plants distributing copies to customers.

WYOMING (August 15). -- Counties making excellent use of neighborhood leaders in rubber collection, neighborhood labor problems, grain storage needs, tire shortage, and now planning scrap harvest campaign.

State leader and county agents assisting ranchmen in acute labor shortage. Agents' offices serve as employment centers for itinerant labor, for high-school boys and girls, clerks, and other town people willing to do agricultural work. Organizing counties to use abandoned CCC camps in housing Japanese workers from relocation center, if such workers are released for beet harvest.

Active in pest control to save crops and aid war food production. In one county 12,000 acres baited for Mormon crickets and loss prevented. Grasshopper losses prevented in other counties. In potato-growing counties where psyllids threatened crop, agents helped growers to get sulfur and to cooperate in using dusters and spray machines.

Educational work done in selecting best ewes and cows for breeding. Urged marketing dry cows now to avoid overloading of shipping and packing-house facilities in fall. 4-H livestock members encouraged to feed several lambs or calves to increase food production.